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RESEARCH OUTLINE

Wisconsin

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Wisconsin. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include materials from county courthouses and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The library is currently acquiring microfilm copies of additional vital, probate, land, military, church, naturalization, and family records from the earliest available years through about 1910.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, microfiche, and computer numbers. These are preceded by *FHL,* the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

The computer number can be used if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog™ on computer. The "Computer Number Search" is an easy way to find a source in the catalog.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each Family History Center. To find a record in this catalog, look in the Locality Search for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS
  WISCONSIN - VITAL RECORDS
  WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE - PROBATE RECORDS
  WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE, MILWAUKEE - DIRECTORIES

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

  UNITED STATES - ***CENSUS***
  WISCONSIN - ***VITAL RECORDS***
  WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE - ***PROBATE RECORDS***
  WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE, MILWAUKEE - ***DIRECTORIES***

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers. One of the largest collections in the United States is at the state historical society.

- State Historical Society of Wisconsin
  816 State Street
  Madison, WI 53706
  Library Division Telephone: 608-264-6535
  Library Division Fax: 608-264-6520
  Archives Division Telephone: 608-264-6460

  The research collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin are divided between library and archives divisions. The library houses printed materials, while the archives maintains the original records for Wisconsin government jurisdictions. The local records are often located at the appropriate area research centers (see addresses below).

  The library has a *Subject Card Catalog*, which is the library's main card catalog. It contains the names of individuals from biographical sketches in histories, biographies, and obituaries. The library will check this card catalog for a name if you will send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

  Several guides have been published that describe the collections at this society. A helpful introductory guide is:

  Danky, James P., ed. *Genealogical Research: An Introduction to the Resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.* Madison, Wisconsin: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. (FHL book 977.5 A1 no. 91; computer number 434285.)

  Another guide to the collections at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin is:

US/CAN
REF AREA
973
D27u
V. 2

Smith, Alice E., ed. *Guide to the Manuscripts of the Wisconsin Historical Society*. Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1944, 1957. (FHL book 977.5 A5w; 977.5 A5w supp. 1; computer number 243300.) A second supplement was published in 1966 (not available at the Family History Library). These guides contain references to the papers of many families and businesses.

The society houses collections of regional interest at area research centers. These centers often have census records; pre-1907 birth, marriage, and death records; probate records; tax records; school records; church records; naturalization records; and other local historical records.

In addition to the state historical society library in Madison, Wisconsin also has the following area research centers:

Special Collections
William D. McIntyre Library
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702-5010
Telephone: 715-836-3873

Serves Sawyer, and Taylor counties.

Library Learning Center
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI 54311-7001
Telephone: 414-465-2539

Serves Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, and Shawano counties.

Eugene W. Murphy Library
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
1631 West Pine Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
Telephone: 608-785-8511

Serves Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempeleau, and Vernon counties.

Golda Meir Library
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
2311 East Hartford Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Telephone: 414-229-5402

Serves Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties.

Forrest R. Polk Library
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
800 Algoma Boulevard
Oshkosh, WI 54901
Telephone: 414-424-3347

Serves Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, and Winnebago counties.

Wyllie Library/Learning Center
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Box 2000
Kenosha, WI 53141-2000
Telephone: 414-595-2411

Serves Kenosha and Racine counties.

Elton E. Karrmann Library
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
725 West Main Street
Platteville, WI 53818
Telephone: 608-342-1719

Serves Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties.

Chalmer Davee Library
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
410 South 3rd Street
River Falls, WI 54022
Telephone: 715-425-3567

Serves Burnett, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and Washburn counties.

Learning Resources Center
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Telephone: 715-346-2586

Serves Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood counties.

Library Learning Center
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Menomonie, WI 54751
Telephone: 715-232-2300

Serves Barron, Dunn, and Pepin counties.

Area Research Center
Superior Public Library
1530 Tower Ave.
Superior, WI 54880
Telephone: 715-394-8860

Serves Douglas County.

Harold W. Anderson Library
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
800 West Main Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
Telephone: 414-472-5520

Serves Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth counties.

For additional addresses of county genealogical and historical societies, see directories cited in the "Archives and Libraries" and "Societies" sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

The Family History Library has guides to the three Wisconsin area research centers at Green Bay, River

Falls, and Stevens Point. These guides are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES.

- National Archives—Great Lakes Region
  7358 South Pulaski Road
  Chicago, IL 60629
  Telephone: 773-581-7816
  Fax: 312-353-1294

- Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
  c/o Mrs. Virginia Irving, Treasurer
  2109 Twentieth Avenue
  Monroe, WI 53566
  Telephone: 608-325-2609

- Milwaukee County Historical Society
  910 North Third St.
  Milwaukee, WI 53203
  Telephone: 414-273-8288

  The society above houses Civil War and church records, obituaries and biographical newspaper clippings, naturalization indexes, census records, court and probate records, and coroners' inquests.

- Vesterheim Genealogical Center
  415 West Main St.
  Madison, WI 53703
  Telephone: 608-255-2224

  This center has records of many Norwegian-Americans, including passenger lists, church records, family records, and Norwegian local and farm histories.

- Wisconsin State Old Cemetery Society
  c/o William Krause
  1562 N 119th St.
  Wauwatosa, WI 53226
  Telephone: 414-771-7781

  There are an estimated 8,500 cemeteries in Wisconsin. This society has compiled the records of about 2,000 cemeteries. They publish a newsletter in which you can place queries.

A guide to Wisconsin archives and libraries is:

Ryan, Carol W. *Searching for Your Wisconsin Ancestors in the Wisconsin Libraries.* Green Bay: C. W. Ryan, 1988. (FHL book 977.5 D27r 1988; computer number 615878.)

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Wisconsin counties, use the fifteen inventories of the county archives published about 1940 by the Historical Records Survey. This source contains detailed inventories of all the records which existed in the county courthouse in approximately the year 1940. It also describes the contents of the records. The Family History Library has copies of the inventories for Barron, Buffalo, LaCrosse, Marathon, Monroe, Rusk, and Sheboygan counties. They are listed in the catalog under WISCONSIN, [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES and LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems are important tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive E-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Wisconsin in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
  http://www.usgenweb.com/
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

- Roots-L
  http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at

many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains some Wisconsin Bible records. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. It is partially indexed in:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States.* vol. 2. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; computer number 298346.) See section two, pages 1–50, which includes Wisconsin.

BIOGRAPHY

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has an extensive Biography File created by the staff and volunteers. The biographies come from biographical sketches, local histories, and biographical compendia of the state that were published before 1940. The sketches are indexed in the historical society's card catalog.

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society has published every-name indexes to about fifty of the published county histories for Wisconsin. The Family History Library has purchased most of these.

An important Wisconsin collection with biographical information about early settlers, traders, missionaries, etc., is:

Draper, Lyman Copeland. *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.* 24 vols. Madison, WI.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1855–. (FHL 977.5 B2wc; films beginning with 924580; computer number 481433.) Volume 21 is an index to volumes 1–20. These volumes discuss various aspects of the early history of Wisconsin.

An interesting collection of biographical information about persons involved in circuses between 1793 and the present is at:

Circus World Museum
Attention: Library and Research Center
426 Water St.
Baraboo, WI 53913
Telephone: 608-356-8341

This center has an index of 360,000 names, personal papers, newspaper ads, periodicals, and route books.

The Family History Library has collected biographical works on subjects such as soldiers, lawyers, women, and prominent citizens and pioneers of various regions of the state. Useful biographical encyclopedias include:

United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-made Men: Wisconsin Volume. Chicago: American Biographical Pub., 1877. (FHL book 977.5 D3a; film 1000800 item 3; fiche 6051214; computer number 243619.) An index is included.

Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography. Madison: State Historical Society, 1960. (FHL book 977.5 D3w; computer number 218795.) The biographies are in alphabetical order.

Nelke, David I. *Columbian Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery. . . .* Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1895. (FHL book 977.5 D3n; film 1036216; computer number 242897.) An index is included.

Usher, Ellis B. *Wisconsin: Its Story and Biography, 1848-1913.* 8 vols. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1914. (FHL book 977.5 H2u; films 1036685-86; computer number 49492.) Volume one has an index to the persons for whom there are biographical sketches in volumes 1–8.

Waterstreet, Darlene E. *Biography Index to the Wisconsin Blue Books.* Milwaukee, Wis.: Badger Infosearch, 1974. (FHL book 977.5 N2b index; computer number 147398.) This indexes the Wisconsin Blue Books, which list 5,000 prominent persons who lived during the period 1870–1973. The Blue Books have biographical information.

CEMETERIES

The Wisconsin State Old Cemetery Society
c/o William Krause, Archivist
1562 North 119th Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Telephone: 414-771-7781
or
c/o President Mrs. Beverly Silldorff
12116 North Briarhill Rd.
Mequon, WI 53097
Telephone: 414-242-3290

The society has card indexes to the names of many persons buried in Wisconsin Cemeteries. The society also publishes a helpful newsletter in which you can place queries. For a small fee, you can have them search their card index. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society has published the inscriptions from several hundred cemeteries in the state in the *Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter.* This is an on-going project. More inscriptions are published in every issue.

The *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection* contains tombstone inscriptions from many Wisconsin cemeteries. Many of the volumes

are indexed. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline and is partly indexed by family surname in E. Kay Kirkham's book listed in the "Bible Records" section of this outline.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Public Library also collect cemetery records. A list made in 1965 of the records in these collections and in the DAR collection is in *Cemeteries in the State of Wisconsin (List only) of Those Copied and on File* . . . (Milwaukee: Wisconsin Genealogical Society, 1965; FHL book 977.5 A1 no. 11; film 908208 item 11; computer number 242539).

The Family History Library has 47 films of Milwaukee cemetery records dating from about 1850 to 1979. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE, MILWAUKEE - CEMETERIES.

A county-by-county list of cemetery record transcripts available at the Family History Library is:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Family History Library. *Index to United States Cemeteries.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1206468–94; computer number 475648.) Film 1206493 includes Wisconsin.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more of these records under:

WISCONSIN - CEMETERIES
WISCONSIN, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
WISCONSIN, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES

CENSUS

Federal Censuses

Population Schedules. Many census records are found at the Family History Library, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides more detailed information about these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses for the state of Wisconsin from 1820 to 1920. The 1890 census for Wisconsin was destroyed, but there is a published index of the Union Army veterans and widows in Wisconsin who were enumerated with the 1890 census:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *1890 Wisconsin Veterans Census Index.* Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc., 1988. (FHL book 977.5 X22w 1890; computer number 343067.) This index was taken from the schedule of Union Army veterans and widows, *Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows* . . . (FHL films 338270–275; computer number 59376).

Statewide indexes are available for the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 (for families with children ten years of age and under), 1900, and 1920 censuses. Card indexes for 1850, 1860, and 1870 are at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and on microfilm at the Family History Library. There is a card for each member of the household in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1905 indexes. The county, village, town, or township is on these cards. These indexes do not match the page numbers used on the National Archives and Family History Library microfilm copies of the census, but they do give the county and township. For 1850, a published index is available with page numbers that match the microfilmed census:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Wisconsin 1850 Census Index.* North Salt Lake, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1978. (FHL book 977.5 x2p 1850j; computer number 246390). This volume indexes only the heads of households.

Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900 and 1920 censuses.

Countywide indexes sometimes help you locate names overlooked in statewide indexes. Some countywide indexes are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN, [COUNTY] - CENSUS.

If you need to find an enumeration district, the following sources may help:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *A Handy Guide to Record-Searching in the Larger Cities of the United States.* Logan, Utah: Everton, 1974. (FHL book 973 D27kc; fiche 6010059-60; computer number 55656.) Includes a ward map and street index for Milwaukee, 1878.

United States. Census Office. *Census Descriptions of Geographic Subdivisions and Enumerations Districts.* Contains the items below:

- 1900 FHL film 1303028; computer number 117685
- 1910 FHL film 1374013; computer number 176643
- 1920 FHL film 1842721; computer number 687949

Buckway, G. Eileen. *U.S. 1910 Federal Census: Unindexed States: A Guide to Finding Census Enumeration Districts for Unindexed Cities, Towns, and Villages.* Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2bu 1910; fiche 6101340; computer number 678265.) Lists all Wisconsin towns (or wards) with their 1910 census enumeration district numbers and FHL film numbers.

Mortality schedules (deaths during the year preceding the census) exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. The schedules are available at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The Family History Library has an index, in book form, to the 1850 mortality schedule (FHL 977.5 X2jm 1850; computer number 453781) and a copy of the 1880 mortality schedule on microfilm (FHL films 1032684 item 3–1032686; computer number 45185).

Master Indexes. Some of the indexes mentioned above are combined into one master index of several census years, states, and census types:

FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer: Version 4.0 [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1997 index; computer number 808500. Not available at Family History Centers.) A master index to Wisconsin 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 federal censuses.

The FamilyFinder Index includes the following indexes by Ronald Vern Jackson:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records.* Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1984. (No FHL fiche number but available at many Family History Centers.) Indexes Wisconsin censuses 1820–1850. Search 3 includes the 1830 federal census for Wisconsin and the Wisconsin 1836 state census. Search 4 includes the 1840 federal census and the Wisconsin 1842 state census. Indexes for the 1820 and 1850 federal censuses for Wisconsin and the 1842 Wisconsin state census are on other searches.

Territorial and State Censuses

Microfilm numbers of Wisconsin territorial or state censuses are listed in Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN - CENSUS - [YEAR]. They are also found in:

Buckway, G. Eileen. *U.S. State and Special Census Register.* Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2be; fiche 6104851–52; computer number 594855.)

The area that is now Wisconsin was included in the censuses of Michigan Territory in 1820 and 1830 and Wisconsin Territory in 1840. Indexes are available for the federal territorial censuses of 1820 and 1830.

In addition to the federal censuses, special censuses were taken by the territory and state in the following years:

1836	1842	1855	1885
1838	1846	1865	1895
1840	1847	1875	1905

The following indexes are available at the Family History Library:

1836 — FHL book 977.5 X2 1836a; computer number 246376; also 977.7x2j 1836; computer number 11412

1838 — FHL book 977.5 X22j 1838; computer number 312122

1840 — FHL book 977.5 X2j 1840; computer number 246385

1842 — FHL book 977.5 X22j 1842; computer number 312271

1855 — FHL book 977.5 X22w 1855; computer number 434864

1905 — on film at the Family History Library (FHL films begining with film 1020439; computer number 211003). For the 1905 census, there are every-name indexes listed in the Library Catalog under each individual county. The indexes cite page numbers.

The following state censuses contain information about Civil War soldiers:

1885 — on film at the Family History Library (FHL films 1032695–704; computer number 45247); at the end of the set of films there is an alphabetical list of 30,000 Civil War veterans, taken 20 June 1885. This list was published in *Tabular Statements of the Census Enumeration* (FHL book 977.5 X2w, Appendix, film 962237; computer number 246393).

1895 — on film at the Family History Library (FHL films 1032705–716; computer number 45305). This record also has a special section at the end of the set of films, listing Civil War veterans by county.

The existing records of Wisconsin Territorial and state censuses are available at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and microfilm copies of most of them are at the Family History Library. The film numbers are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN - CENSUS. The 1905 census is the only state census of Wisconsin which lists entire families and households by name. The other Wisconsin state censuses list the head of household, with some age statistics.

There are helpful censuses of Native Americans in Wisconsin for the time period 1885–1933. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN - CENSUS and WISCONSIN - NATIVE RACES.

CHURCH RECORDS

During the 1800s, two major denominations—the Catholics and the Lutherans—were widely represented in Wisconsin. This was largely due to the tremendous number of German, Polish, and Scandinavian immigrants who settled in the state. Methodists and

Baptists were also represented but in much smaller numbers.

The records of many denominations have been preserved. They are especially valuable because often they cover time periods before the state began registration of vital statistics. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many church records from Wisconsin. Church records have also been deposited with the state historical society. Although some records of congregations have been gathered to major denominational repositories, the majority still remain with the local congregation.

The Family History Library has several Historical Records Survey inventories, completed in the 1940s, of the church archives in the state. These inventories may help you identify what records are available and where they may be located:

Historical Records Survey (Wisconsin). *Guide to Church Vital Statistics Records in Wisconsin.* Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 977.5 K23h; film 1036234 item 5; computer number 60219.) This gives the exact years of the church registers.

The Family History Library has inventories that list the records available in the individual churches. The inventories were prepared by the Historical Records Survey between 1938 and 1942:

Assembly of God, FHL film 982044 item 7; computer number 245425

Disciples of Christ, FHL film 982044 item 6; computer number 245488

Moravian Church, FHL book 977.5 K2hi; film 2055227 item 6; computer number 245503

Church of the Nazarene, FHL film 982044 item 8; computer number 245508

Protestant Episcopal, FHL film 1036232 item 4; computer number 60226

United Brethren in Christ, FHL film 982044 item 5; computer number 245431

To learn which towns or cities had churches in 1940, see:

Historical Records Survey (Wisconsin). *Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Wisconsin.* Madison, Wis.: The Wisconsin Historical Records Survey, 1941. (FHL book 977.5 K24h; film 1036193 item 12; fiche 6051165; computer number 245669.) This directory lists churches by denomination, and at the end the churches are listed by county. Though it lists towns or cities which had churches, it does not give the year the registers began.

The Family History Library has histories of several denominations. An example is Stephen Peet, *History of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches and Ministers in Wisconsin* (Milwaukee: S. Chapman, 1851; FHL book 977.5 K2p; film 982027 item 5; computer number 245511).

Some churches have gathered their records into central repositories or archives. The major denominational repositories are:

Lutheran

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Archives)
8765 West Higgins
Chicago, IL 60631
Telephone: 773-380-2818
Fax: 312-380-2977

The above archives has microfilms of Evangelical Lutheran congregations for region nine, which includes Iowa, Illinois, upper Michigan, and Wisconsin. Many of their records can be borrowed for a small fee. (For a list of the church records for approximately 200 Wisconsin congregations in the collection, see FHL fiche 6330690-93; computer number 170040.)

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Department of Archives and History
2929 North Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee WI 53222
Telephone: 414-256-3888

The following yearbook contains the names of congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and includes name, telephone number, and address of the minister:

Yearbook of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1989–. (FHL book 977.5 K24w 1990; computer number 523547.)

Concordia Historical Institute
801 DeMun Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105
Telephone: 314-505-7900

They have some records of existing Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations and records of some that have closed.

Methodist

Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Church
750 Windsor St.
Sun Prairie WI 53590
Telephone: 608-837-7328

For a history of the Methodist church in Wisconsin, see Pansey S. F. Bennett, *History of Methodism in Wisconsin* (Cincinnati: Cranston & Stowe, 1980; FHL book 977.5 K2b; film 1036198 item 6; computer number 245366).

Roman Catholic

Archdiocese of Milwaukee
2000 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53403
Telephone: 414-769-3340

The church records of the parishes in the above diocese have been microfilmed to about 1920 and are available through the Family History Library. These records include parishes in about eleven counties in southeastern Wisconsin. The records are cataloged by the town where the parish is located.

Diocese of Green Bay
1910 South Webster Avenue
P.O. Box 66
Green Bay, WI 54301
Telephone: 414-435-4406

Diocese of La Crosse
421 Main Street
P.O. Box 982
La Crosse, WI 54601
Telephone: 608-788-7700

Diocese of Madison
15 East Wilson Street, Box 111
Madison, WI 53701
Telephone: 608-256-2677

Diocese of Superior
1201 Hughitt Avenue, Box 969
Superior, WI 54880
Telephone: 715-392-2937

There is a current directory of congregations:

The Official Catholic Directory. New Providence, N. J.: P. J. Kenedy & Sons, in association with R. R. Bowker, annual. (FHL book 282.025 Of2; computer number 38388.) This directory is available at many public libraries and has addresses and telephone numbers of Roman Catholic churches. The 1936 edition is on FHL fiche 6104166.

The early Roman Catholic mission records, 1695–1821, for the mission of St. Ignace of Michilimackinac contain information about many of the early traders in what is now Wisconsin and are published in:

Draper, Lyman Copeland, ed. *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.* Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1855–. (FHL 977.5 B2wc; on films beginning with film 924580; computer number 481433.) This series has the register of baptisms of the parish of St. Ignace de Michilimakinak, 1695–1821 (vol. 19), marriages 1725–1821 (vol. 18), and burials 1743–1806 (vol. 19).

COURT RECORDS

Federal and territorial courts recorded many early court cases. Some of the territorial court actions have been published. Other Wisconsin courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1800s–pres. ***Circuit courts*** have countywide jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases and some appeals. Cases can be transferred to a court of appeals.

1836–pres. ***Justice of the peace courts*** have civil and criminal jurisdiction.

1836–pres. ***Municipal courts*** have citywide jurisdiction over misdemeanors and ordinance violations.

1836–pres. The ***supreme court*** serves as the statewide appellate court.

1839–1849 ***Probate courts*** were established in each county. These were abolished in 1849 and the county courts took their place in handling probate cases.

1848–pres. ***County courts*** have countywide jurisdiction concurrently with circuit courts for criminal and civil cases and have exclusive jurisdiction for probates, juvenile matters, dependency, and neglect matters. From 1854 to 1913, the county courts handled probate matters but did not have jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases.

The Family History Library does not have copies of Wisconsin civil and criminal court records. They are available at the clerk's office in the various county courthouses and at archival repositories.

DIRECTORIES

The State Historical Society has the best collection of city, business, occupational, and other directories of names. The Family History Library has directories of heads of households for some major cities. For example, the Library has directories for:

- Milwaukee
  1847–60 . . . . . FHL fiche 6044124-33; computer number 657122
  1861–1935 . . . . . FHL film 1377046-60; computer number 657122
- Madison
  1851–59, 1866–1935 (some gaps) . . . . . FHL fiche 6044081-84; computer number 655494
  1923, 1937, 1968 . . FHL book 977.584 E4w; computer number 2430

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The "Emigration and Immigration" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants. These nationwide sources include references to people who settled in Wisconsin. The *Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline* (34111) introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor's hometown.

People

Small groups of French fur traders came to the Green Bay and Prairie du Chien areas in the 1700s. They were followed by lead miners from the Southern states who settled near the Galena diggings on the Illinois border in the 1820s. Substantial immigration from the northeastern states began in the 1830s. Later, American-born settlers were usually from New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

Between 1840 and 1860, hundreds of thousands of immigrants came from Europe. Most of them came by way of the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes to the port of Milwaukee, or they came up the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and then by the railroads, which crossed the area soon after Wisconsin statehood.

The most numerous of the foreign-born immigrants were from Germany. They came from the Catholic provinces of southern Germany and from Protestant eastern Germany.

Before the Civil War, the Irish were the second largest immigrant group in Wisconsin. There was also considerable emigration from England, Scotland, Wales, and British North America.

Many Norwegians came to Wisconsin before the Civil War and by 1900 had become the second-largest foreign-born group in the state. They were joined by settlers from southern and eastern Europe, especially Poles and Czechs, and by smaller groups of Russians, Yugoslavs, Italians, and Greeks. At the beginning of World War I in 1914, the majority of Wisconsin residents were of German origin or descent, but this had declined to 40 percent by 1930.

Records

The main port of entry to Wisconsin was Milwaukee, but no passenger lists are available for it or for other Wisconsin ports. Most immigrants from overseas landed at east-coast ports, primarily New York City, before proceeding to Wisconsin. If an immigrant identified Milwaukee as the port of entry, it is probable that he or she arrived first at the port of Quebec in Canada, and then came through the St. Lawrence/Great Lakes to enter the United States at Wisconsin. This was an important route particularly for the Norwegian immigrants.

There are Canadian border crossing records for 1895–1949 (FHL films 1561087–499; computer number 423848) and soundex indexes for 1895–1924 (FHL films 1472801–3201) and 1924–1952 (FHL films 1570714–811; computer number 423848).

An important nationwide source for locating published information about immigrants who came to America before about 1920 is P. William Filby, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for information about this source.

The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists or indexes for American ports for the years 1800–1921 for Philadelphia, 1820–1943 for Boston and New York, and 1865–1900 for Canadian ports. Indexes are being published for many ethnic groups, such as the Czechs (1846–), Italians (1880–), Germans (1850–), Greeks (1885–), and Russians (1875–). More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

You may also want to read these histories:

Sachtjen, Maude. *Immigration to Wisconsin: A Thesis*. Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1928. (FHL book 977.5 W2s; film 844952 item 4; computer number 246370.)

Current, Richard Nelson. "A German State?" in *Wisconsin: A Bicentennial History*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1977. (FHL book 977.5 H2cr; computer number 207123.)

Records of various ethnic groups, including Blacks, Danes, Finns, Germans, Norwegians, and Welsh, are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN - MINORITIES. Records of Dutch, Danes, Belgians, and Germans from Russia are listed under WISCONSIN - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

GAZETTEERS

Several helpful gazetteers of Wisconsin have been published. Some of the most helpful are:

Hale, James B.W. *Wisconsin Post Office Handbook*. Revised edition. (Not available at the Family History Library.) Available from the Wisconsin Postal History Society, 5401 Raymond Rd., Madison, WI 53711.

Hunt, John Warren. *Wisconsin Gazetteer*. Madison: B. Brown, 1853. (FHL book 977.5 E5h; film 897468; fiche 6051150; computer number 243702.)

Moertl, Frank. *Wisconsin; Its Territorial and Statehood Post Offices*, 1993. (Not available at the Family History Library.) Available from the Wisconsin Postal History Society, see above. This has detailed maps and descriptions showing the location of each post office.

Wisconsin Gazetteer. Wilmington, Del.: American Historical Publications, Inc., 1991. (FHL book 977.5 E5w; computer number 539215.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. For a helpful list of these organizations, see:

Ryan, Carol W. *Searching for Your Wisconsin Ancestors in the Wisconsin Libraries.* Green Bay: C. W. Ryan, 1988. (FHL book 977.5 D27r 1988; computer number 615878.)

The Wisconsin State Historical Society Library has one of the largest genealogical collections in the United States. Their subject card catalog indexes many genealogical sources. You may wish to write to them to request a search of the catalog for the name of a specific ancestor in whom you are interested. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with any request. They are not able to do extensive searches for an entire surname.

There are many family genealogies contained in county history books. The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society is publishing book indexes to these county histories. The Family History Library has about fifty of these indexes. They are listed under WISCONSIN - [COUNTY] - HISTORY. You can write to the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society to order these indexes. The address is given above in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.

Especially helpful sources are:

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection. This collection is listed in the Author/Title Search of the catalog and consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriage records, death records, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is available on microfilm at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and at the Family History Library (FHL films 848695-701 and 858651; various computer numbers). Generally there is an index at the beginning of each volume.

Wisconsin Pioneer and Century Certificate Project. The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society issues pioneer certificates to anyone whose ancestors settled in Wisconsin by 1850 and century certificates to those who can document pre-1876 Wisconsin ancestry. The applications contain detailed family history information.

The applications are at the Historical Society of Wisconsin and are filed by county. You can request a search and photocopies of information in this file.

The following index to the applications gives brief genealogical information for more than 7,000 ancestors and includes the names and addresses of the applicants:

Patterson, Betty. *Some Pioneer Families of Wisconsin: An Index.* Madison: State Genealogical Society, 1977. (FHL book 977.5 D22s; computer number 5769.)

An additional index has been published which lists over 2,000 more pioneers:

Some Pioneer Families of Wisconsin: An Index, Volume 2. Madison: State Genealogical Society, 1987.(FHL book 977.5 D22s; computer number 5769.)

Gene-A-Rama. Another source for family trees in Wisconsin is:

Wisconsin Genealogical Council. *Gene-A-Rama.* Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.: Wisconsin Genealogical Council, 1987–. (FHL book 977.5 D2w 1993; computer number 594917.) There are several editions from 1987. They list over 1,000 ancestors of members and give the place where ancestors lived and the date.

French-Canadian Families. A helpful source for French-Canadian ancestors who emigrated to Wisconsin is Paul J. Lareau and Elmer Courteau, *French-Canadian Families of the North Central States: A Genealogical Dictionary,* 8 vols. (St. Paul, Minn.: Northwest Territory French and Canadian Heritage Institute, 1980; FHL book 973 D2la; fiche 6010503-11; computer number 86402).

See the "Biography" section in this outline for additional sources for family genealogies.

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Wisconsin affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1690–1820 Roman Catholic missionaries established the mission of St. Ignace de Michilimackinac, at Mackinac (now Michigan). The mission was the center for traders going to and from what is now Wisconsin. For records of baptisms, marriages, and burials, see the "Church Records" section above.

1763 The British took possession of the area from the French but discouraged new settlers.

1787 Wisconsin officially became part of the U.S. Northwest Territory, but British fur traders effectively controlled the region until 1816.

1800 The present Wisconsin area was included in the Indiana Territory.

1809 The Wisconsin area was part of the Illinois Territory.

1818 The Wisconsin area was included in the Michigan Territory. The territorial governor of Michigan created the first two Wisconsin counties, Brown and Crawford.

1820s High prices for lead attracted settlers to the mines of southern Wisconsin. The Michigan 1820 census lists residents of what is now Wisconsin.

1830s Heavy settlement began along the Lake Michigan shoreline at the sites of present-day Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha. The Michigan 1830 census lists of residents of what is now Wisconsin.

1832 The Black Hawk War ended the last serious Indian threat to white settlements.

1836 Congress created the Wisconsin Territory, which included lands west of the Mississippi River to the Missouri River. Much of the western portion was later transferred to the Iowa Territory, created in 1838.

1840s Many families arrived from Germany and New York.

1848 Wisconsin, with its present boundaries, became a state.

1861–1865 Over 90,000 men from Wisconsin served in the Union armed forces during the Civil War.

You can learn about the pre-statehood era of Wisconsin in the many published volumes of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Two good sources are the *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin* (see "Periodicals" section below) and the Northwest, Illinois, and Michigan, and Wisconsin Territorial Papers. Indexes to the territorial papers are in *The Territorial Papers of the United States*. 28 vols. (FHL book 973 N2udt; films beginning with film 1421059; computer number 210409). Volume 26 is at the Family History Library. Volumes 27 and 28 cover Wisconsin Territorial papers 1836–1848. The Family History Library does not have volumes 27 and 28.

The Wisconsin territorial papers collection (on microfilms listed below) has a few court records for 1836–1848; Bureau of Indian Affairs records 1836–1848; appointments of postmasters 1836–1848; maps 1836–1848; records of lighthouses and customs, and many other governmental records.

The Territorial Papers of the United States: the Territory of Wisconsin, 1836–1848: a Microfilm Supplement. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1959. (On 122 FHL films beginning with 1601731; computer number 467354.)

Much historical information is included in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. (See the "Periodicals" section of this outline.)

A source for early Wisconsin historical information for the 1690s to the 1860s is:

Draper, Lyman Copeland, ed. *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*. 24 vols. Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1855–. (FHL 977.5 B2wc; films 924580–; computer number 481433.) For example, volume 19 has extensive information about persons engaged in the fur trade, 1778–1817.

A source with excellent bibliographies concerning the early French traders and Indian records is:

Hansen, James L. "Voyageurs and Habitants: Tracing the Early French in the Great Lakes Region." National Genealogical Society Conference in the States (1995: San Diego, California). *San Diego, A Place to Explore: Syllabus*. 2 vols. [Arlington, Va.] National Genealogical Society, 1996, 2:688–91. (FHL book 973 D25ngsc 1995; computer number 752776.)

Especially useful sources for studying the history of Wisconsin are:

Quaife, Milo Milton. *Wisconsin: Its History and Its People, 1634-1924*. 4 vols. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1924. (FHL book 977.5 H2q; film 1036176; fiche 6046726; computer number 245180.)

History of Wisconsin. Vols. 1–3, 5–6. Madison: State Historical Society, 1973–1988. (FHL book 977.5 H2sa; computer number 245272.) Volume 4 is in preparation.

Local Histories

Wisconsin has a large number of county and regional histories, which contain much family history information. The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (see address in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline) has prepared every-name indexes to about fifty of the histories. The Family History Library has most of these indexes.

LAND AND PROPERTY

Federal Land Grants

When the area that is now Wisconsin became part of the United States, a few prior land claims by early

pioneers were settled in the courts. Most of the land was unclaimed. This land became the public domain and was sold through land offices. The first general land office was established at Mineral Point in 1834.

The early land office records are at the Commissioner of Public Lands, 127 West Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703. The original patents and copies of tract books and township plats are at the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, VA 22153, Telephone: 703-440-1523; Fax: 703-440-1599. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin also has copies of the tract books. The land entry case files and the original tract books and township plats of the general land offices are at the National Archives—Reference Branch, Archives 1, 7th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20408, Telephone: 202-501-5395; Fax 202-219-6273. All of these records are generally arranged according to the legal description of the land (see the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for additional information about these federal land records).

The Family History Library has two different compact discs that contain indexes to the Wisconsin pre-1908 land entry case files at the Bureau of Land Management. You can search these discs by the name of the patentee and learn the township and range, the date, and the patent number. With this information you can send for copies of the original records from the National Archives—Reference Branch, Archives 1, 7th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20408. Ask for form 84. The two discs are:

Index to BLM Records: AL, AR, FL, LA, MI, MN, OH, WI. Novato, Cal.: Broderbund Software, Family Tree Maker, 1996. (FHL CD no. 9 pt. 255; computer number 793054.)

United States. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. *Wisconsin, 1820–1908 Cash and Homestead Entries, Cadastral Survey Plats.* Version 7.3. Springfield, Va.: BLM Eastern States, 1994. (FHL compact disc no. 38; computer number 785088. Not available at Family History Centers.) These records are patents issued by the federal government. Researchers can search for information about land titles through any one of six categories: land description, patentee name, patent authority, land office, certificate number, or county.

The Family History Library has the Bureau of Land Management tract books on microfilm. You need to know the township and range where the land was located before searching these tract books. You may find the township and range information in a county history or deed record. Tract books are available in:

United States. Bureau of Land Management. *Tract Books.* Washington, D.C.: Records Improvement, Bureau of Land Management, 1957. (On 1,265 FHL films beginning with 1445277; computer number 473821.)

The Family History Library also has an index to some of the Federal land patents. You need to know the township and range where the land was located in order to use this index.:

United States. Bureau of Land Management. *Card Files.* Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Land Management, 19—. (On 160 FHL films beginning with 1501522; computer number 547365.)

County Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, all subsequent transactions, including deeds and mortgages, were recorded by the register of deeds. These records usually date back to the time of the county's organization and frequently have grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer) indexes. They are available at the county courthouse. Many of the county indexes and a few of the deeds are on microfilm at the Family History Library. For example, the library has copies of Milwaukee County mortgage records and indexes (1836-1916) on 103 microfilms and Dane County deeds (1883-1886) and indexes (1835-1915) on 87 films. Look for these county land records in the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN, [COUNTY] - LAND AND PROPERTY.

MAPS

A source for detailed maps is the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The collection includes land ownership maps, survey maps, aerial maps, state and county atlases, fire insurance maps, and topographical maps.

One of the largest collections of maps for the entire United States is that of the American Geographical Society. These records are now at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, 2311 East Hartford Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

The collection has maps of Milwaukee for 1849, 1857, 1869, 1875, 1886, 1890, 1892, and 1898:

Ward Maps of United States Cities . . . Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1975? (FHL film 1377700; fiche 6016675–682; computer number 181937.)

The Family History Library has a few Wisconsin maps dating from 1855 and a good collection of county histories and atlases. It also has land ownership and geological survey maps for Wisconsin. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for detailed information. Several helpful atlases are:

Robinson, Arthur, and Jerry B. Culver. *Atlas of Wisconsin: General Maps and Gazetteers.* Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1974. (FHL book Q977.5 E3v; computer number 243695.) This atlas includes an excellent gazetteer.

Snyder, Van Vechten & Co. *Historical Atlas of Wisconsin* . . . Janesville, Wis.: Origins, 1995. (FHL book Q 977.5 E7s; computer number 377601.) This is a reprint of the 1878 publication and contains useful maps for each county.

Walling, H. F. *Atlas of the State of Wisconsin.* Detroit: Walling, Tackabury and Co., 1876. (FHL film 1036174, item 2; computer number 242847.)

DeLorme Mapping Company. *Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer.* Freeport, Me: DeLorme Mapping Co., 1988. (FHL book Q 977.5 E7d; computer number 519245.)

Michael Fox's *Maps and Atlases Showing Land Ownership in Wisconsin* (Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1978) lists maps available at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (not at the Family History Library).

To see changes in county boundaries, use:

Long, John H., ed. *Historical Atlas and Chronology of County Boundaries, 1788–1980.* Scale: 1:633,600. Vols. 1–5. Boston, Mass.: G.K. Hall, 1984. (FHL 973 E7hL v. 1–5; fiche 6051426–30; computer number 304297.) Maps show when and where each county changed boundaries. Maps for Wisconsin are in volume 3 (fiche 6051428).

MILITARY RECORDS

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies. Archives in Wisconsin with exceptional holdings include:

- *Office of the Adjutant General.* Located at 2400 Wright, Madison, WI 53702, telephone: 608-242-3000. This office has records pertaining to the National Guard in Wisconsin, primarily for the 1900s.
- *State Historical Society.* The Archives Division has copies of draft records, muster rolls, state militia rosters, pension claims, and other materials.
- *Department of Veteran Affairs.* Located at 77 North Dickinson Street, Madison, WI 53702. This department has restricted records for World War I and later wars. It also has a file of grave registrations.

The following sources are also very helpful:

Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files.* 4 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1990–1992. (FHL book 973 M28g; computer number 534698.) Volume four is an every-name index to volumes one to three. These volumes contain detailed abstracts with names, dates, and places mentioned in the Revolutionary War Pension files.

Revolutionary War Veterans, 1775–1784, Buried in Wisconsin. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. This is a microfilm of a typescript. (FHL film 940199 item 9; computer number 308734.) This lists 43 Revolutionary War soldiers and the states from which they came to Wisconsin.

See the *United States Research Outline* (30972), "Military Records" section, for several excellent DAR and SAR indexes, available at the Family History Library, to cemetery records of Revolutionary War soldiers.

War of 1812 (1812–1815)

White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.* 2 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1992. (FHL book 973 M22i 1992; computer number 690247.)

If you do not have access to the above book, you will find the same information on the National Archives microfilms of the *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files* (FHL films 840421–500 and 847501–32; computer number 113898). This lists the soldier's name and often the name of his wife.

Indian Wars (1815–1858)

White, Virgil D. *Index to Volunteer Soldiers in Indian Wars and Disturbances, 1815–1858.* 2 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: The National Historical Publishing Co., 1994. (FHL book 973 M22wiv; computer number 720302.)

Mexican War (1846–1848)

You may wish to search records of soldiers and widows of the Mexican War, 1846–1848. For example, the following index is available:

White, Virgil D. *Index to Mexican War Pension Files.* Waynesboro, Tenn.: The National Historical Publishing Co., 1989. (FHL book 973 M22mw; computer number 556666.)

Civil War (1861–1865)

The Family History Library and the National Archives have an index to service records of Union army volunteers, *Index to Compiled Service Records*

of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Wisconsin (FHL films 882486–518; computer number 279932). The library also has the index to the pension files (FHL films 540757–1300; computer number 245945), but the actual service and pension records are available only at the National Archives.

The following regimental muster and descriptive rolls made by the Adjutant General's Office are at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the Family History Library:

Wisconsin Adjutant General's Office. *Military Records, 1861–1865.* (FHL films 1311667-98; computer number 133555.) These include such information as the soldier's name, rank, birthplace, age, and occupation. They are arranged by regiment, then company.

The Wisconsin Veteran's Museum, 30 West Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703, telephone 608-266-1854, has a computerized index to Wisconsin Civil War soldiers' enlistments. This is for soldiers who served in Wisconsin regiments only. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request for a search.

For Civil War veterans another source is:

Miljat, Leslie Elizabeth. *Admission Applications, 1867–1872, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Northwestern Branch, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.* Wauwatosa, Wis. L. E. Miljat, 1991. (FHL book 977.595 M28m; computer number 669183.) This lists Civil War soldiers from many parts of the country. The applications contain family history information about each veteran, such as name of spouse, father, siblings, or children; Civil War unit; discharge or death date; and burial place. The Family History Library has the original applications and records of this home for the years, 1867–1934 (FHL films beginning with film 1561060; computer number 508537.)

The censuses taken by the state in 1885, 1895, and 1905 included separate enumerations of soldiers residing in the state. The lists of soldiers were published in alphabetical order at the end of the statistical reports. For 1885, see FHL films 1032703-04; computer number 45247. For 1895, see films 1032705-16; computer number 45305. The 1905 lists are on 36 FHL films beginning with film 1020439; computer number 211003. The 1885 lists were published in alphabetical order, at the end of *Tabular Statements of the Census Enumeration* (Madison: Democrat Printing Co., 1886; FHL book 977.5 X2w; film 962237; computer number 246392).

When the 1890 census was taken, a listing was made of Civil War soldiers and their widows. This has been indexed in:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *1890 Wisconsin Veterans Census Index.* Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc., 1988. (FHL book 977.5 X22w 1890; computer number 343067.)

An important index available on microfilm is:

United States Veterans Administration. *Pension Index File, Alphabetical; of the Veterans Administration . . .* Washington: Veterans Administration, Publications Service, 1953. (On 544 FHL films beginning with film 0540757; computer number 245945.) To obtain copies of the actual pension files, you will want to write to the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Biographical sketches of soldiers are in *Soldiers' and Citizens' Album of Biographical Record,* 2 vols. (Chicago: Grand Army Pub., 1888, 1890; FHL book 977.5 D3s; vol. 1 is on film 928504 item 2; vol. 2 is on film 928508; vol. 2 is also on fiche 6051213; computer number 248882).

A useful new book for tracing Civil War ancestors is:

Moore, Dennis R. *Researching Your Civil War Ancestors in Wisconsin.* Manitowoc, Wis.: Bivouac Publications, 1994. (FHL book 977.5 M27m; computer number 777581.) This gives detailed listings of Civil War records available at the State Archives and explains what is included in each type of record.

For records of national old soldier homes including the home in Waupaca, Wisconsin, see:

United States. Veterans Administration. *Registers of Veterans at National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1937.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (On 282 FHL films; computer number 508537.) Includes general indexes for each of the twelve homes, but some volumes are indexed separately. These *Historical Registers* may list the soldier's name, date and place of enlistment, rank, military unit, length of service, date and place of discharge, place of birth, age, physical description, religion, occupation, previous residence, marital status, nearest relative, pension, soldier home admission and discharge dates, disability, death date, or cause of death.

World War I (1917–1918)

A published roster of soldiers who died during the war, arranged by branch of service and by county, is John Goodby Gregory, ed., *Wisconsin's Gold Star List: Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Nurses from the Badger State. . . .* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1925; FHL film 1000801; film 924401 item 2; fiche 6051352; computer number 246352).

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Wisconsin, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Wisconsin, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987–1988. (On FHL films beginning with film 1685061; computer number 756769.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board. Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. For a copy of the map for Milwaukee, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803; computer number 702779.)

MINORITIES

Native American

Wisconsin has been the home to the Chippewa, Fox, Kickapoo, Menominee, Potawatomi, Sauk, Sioux, Winnebago, and other Indian tribes. After the early 1800s, white settlers occupied most of these lands, but several reservations were created and still exist.

The Family History Library has some copies of Bureau of Indian Affairs records from Wisconsin. Most of these records are at the National Archives—Great Lakes Region. You will find several special censuses listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN - CENSUS. The catalog lists Indian censuses taken as early as 1836, and annuity rolls as early as 1849. Also listed are Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian census rolls, which were taken during the years 1885–1940. The Family History Library Catalog lists some records of the various tribes under WISCONSIN - NATIVE RACES and others in the Subject Search under the name of the tribe.

For the very early period, be sure to check the Roman Catholic mission records. One collection of these is:

Draper, Lyman Copeland, ed. *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*. Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1855–. (FHL 977.5 B2wc; on films beginning with film 924580; computer number 481433.) This series has the registers of baptisms 1695–1821 (vol. 19), marriages 1725–1821 (vol. 18), and burials 1743–1806 (vol. 19) of the Mission of St. Ignace de Michilimakinak.

Several helpful books are:

Lurie, Nancy Oestreich. *Wisconsin Indians*. Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1980. (FHL book 970.475 L974w; computer number 396252.) Contains a helpful bibliography.

Mason, Carol I. *Introduction to Wisconsin Indians: Prehistory to Statehood*. Salem, Wisc.: Sheffield Publishing, 1988. (FHL book 970.475 M381i; computer number 526100.)

African-American

Many African-Americans settled in Wisconsin. They were trappers and boatmen in the 1700s. Settlers from the Southern states brought slaves with them. There were many free African-Americans in Wisconsin also. For more information, you may wish to contact the Wisconsin Black Historical Society, 2620 West Center St., Milwaukee, WI 53206, telephone: 414-372-7677.

A helpful source for learning about African-Americans in Wisconsin is: Zachary Cooper, *Black Settlers in Rural Wisconsin* (Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1997; FHL book 977.5 A1 no. 51; computer number 243015).

German

In the 1830s, many German settlers began arriving in Wisconsin. There are helpful indexes to the German immigrants mentioned in United States passenger lists.

One set of volumes is:

Glazier, Ira A. ed. *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U. S. Ports*. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1988–. (FHL book 973 W2ger; computer number 465274.) This set lists those who arrived from 1850 to 1888. The series will continue to about 1896.

Norwegian

A large number of Norwegians settled in Wisconsin as early as 1839. An important repository is Vesterheim Genealogical Center, Naeseth Library, 415 West Main St., Madison, WI 53703; telephone: 608-255-2224.

The center has family histories for Norway and the U.S., and Norwegian and U.S. censuses, church records, passenger lists, local histories, and maps.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have been filed primarily in municipal, county, circuit, supreme, and U.S. district courts. Some of the older evidences of citizenship are found in the minutes of these courts and not in separate books. The records of approximately two-thirds of the counties are on microfilm at the area research centers.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of records from some counties and is continues to acquire records of additional counties. From Dane County, for example, the library has:

- Circuit court admissions, 1855-1906
- Circuit court declarations, 1848-1906
- Circuit court petitions and oaths, 1841-1906
- Municipal court declarations, 1875-1906
- Municipal court index to declarations, 1861-1906
- U.S. district court declarations of intention, 1841-47
- General card index to various courts, 1800-1907

The Milwaukee circuit and municipal court records of 1836 to 1941 are at the Milwaukee County Historical Society, 910 North 3rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53203. For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Great Lakes Region or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The archives branch has records of the U.S. District Court from 1866 to 1921 and an extensive index to other federal records.

NEWSPAPERS

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has the second-largest collection of newspapers in the United States. Many, including all Wisconsin newspapers, are on microfilm and can be loaned to public libraries through interlibrary loan. Newspapers produced by German and other ethnic groups are especially valuable for research about residents of the state.

From the state historical society, the Family History Library has obtained microfilms of 52 volumes of obituaries for 1846 to 1968 known as the *Wisconsin Necrology* (FHL films 977684–91; computer number 46495). These are primarily from 1846–1944. There are 52 chronological volumes, and each volume has an index. The Milwaukee Public Library has a card index to the *Milwaukee Sentinel* for 1837–1890. It is also on microfilm at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

There is an index to the Green Bay newspapers:

Noonan, Barry Christopher. *Index to Green Bay Newspapers, 1833–1840*. Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin State Historical Society, 1987. (FHL book 977.5 A1 no. 194; computer number 709992.)

Directories that can help you locate copies of newspapers are:

Hansen, James L. *Wisconsin Newspapers, 1833-1850: An Analytical Bibliography*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1979. (FHL book 977.5 A3h; computer number 41756.)

Oehlerts, Donald E. *Guide to Wisconsin Newspapers, 1833-1957*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1958. (FHL book 977.5 B3o; computer number 243324.) This source is primarily helpful for finding pre-1950 newspapers.

Many newspapers contain obituaries. Some of these have been indexed, for example:

Bookstaff, Manning M. *Index to Deaths Reported in "The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle," 1921–1961*. Milwaukee: M. M. Bookstaff, 1994 (FHL 977.595 B32b; computer number 735893.)

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, in Madison, has indexed many of the obituaries in Wisconsin newspapers. There is a card for each person, and the cards are in their *Subject Card Catalog*. The library will check this card catalog for a name if you will send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

PERIODICALS

Many family history periodicals publish local records of genealogical value. These may include genealogies; information about local records and archives; queries; census indexes; and transcripts of family Bibles, church records, court records, cemetery records, land records, obituaries, and wills.

The major periodicals and magazines helpful for Wisconsin research include:

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter. 1954–. Published by the Society, c/o Mrs. Virginia Irving, 2109 Twentieth Ave., Monroe, WI 53566, Telephone: 608-325-2609. (FHL book 977.5 B2n; computer number 41261.) There is a cumulative index to 1963.

Wisconsin Families; Quarterly of the Wisconsin Genealogical Society. 1940–41. Published by the Wisconsin Genealogical Society. (FHL book 977.5 D25w; film 873820 item 2; computer number 27264.)

M.C.G.S. Reporter. 1969–. Published by the Milwaukee County Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 27326, Milwaukee, WI 53227-0326. (FHL book 977.594 D25mc; computer number 222826.)

Genealogical Gems. 1982–. Published by the Fox Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1592, Appleton, WI 54913-1592. (FHL book 977.5 D25g; computer number 242200.)

La Crosse Area Genealogical Quarterly. 1974–. Published by the La Crosse Area Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1782, La Crosse, WI 54602-1782. (FHL book 977.571 D25L; computer number 66343.)

State Historical Society of Wisconsin. *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1917–. (FHL book 977.5 B2w; computer number 223558.) The Family History Library has indexes for volumes 1–75 which cover the issues to 1991. Microfilms of this magazine are available from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Korzenie/Roots/Polish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin. 1989–. Published by the Society, P.O. Box 342341, Milwaukee, WI 53234-2341; semi-annual. (FHL book 977.5 D25k; computer number 531380.)

Family Finding: a quarterly newsletter of the Wisconsin Jewish Genealogical Society. 1990–. Published by the Society, c/o Penny Deshur, 9280 N. Fairway Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53217; quarterly. (FHL book 977.5 D25fa; computer number 616380.)

Wisconsin Then and Now/State Historical Society of Wisconsin. 1954–1979. Published by the Society, Madison, WI; quarterly. (FHL book 977.5 B2wt; computer number 584012.)

Gems of Genealogy. 1975–. Published by Bay Area Genealogical Society; P.O. Box 283, Green Bay, WI 54305-0283; bi-monthly. (FHL book 977.5 D25gg; computer number 251043.)

French Canadian/Acadian Genealogists of Wisconsin Quarterly. 1987–. Published by the French Canadian Genealogists of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 414, Hales Corners, WI 53130; Tel. 414-786-6408. Quarterly. (FHL 977.5 D25f; computer number 475611.) The quarterly includes lists of surnames being researched by members.

Indexes. The periodicals listed above may have annual indexes in the final issue for the year. For nationwide indexes to some of these and other family history periodicals, see:

PERiodical Source Index (PERSI). Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1987–. (FHL book 973 D25per; 1847–1985 on fiche 601683 [40 fiche]; 1986–1990 on fiche 6016864 [15 fiche]; computer number 658308.) Indexes thousands of family history periodicals. Annual indexes have been published yearly since 1986. For further details, see the *PERiodical Source Index Resource Guide* (34119).

For more family history periodicals, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

WISCONSIN - PERIODICALS
WISCONSIN - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
WISCONSIN - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS
WISCONSIN, [COUNTY] - PERIODICALS
WISCONSIN, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
WISCONSIN, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS

PROBATE RECORDS

In the territorial era, probate records were kept by probate courts. These files were eventually transferred to the clerk of the county court, where current records are also kept. You may obtain information by contacting the clerk's office.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of probate files and indexes from some counties and is continuing to acquire additional records. For example, Milwaukee County microfilms include probate packets from 1850–1910 (on 1,097 FHL films beginning with film 1020046; computer number 10531), wills and estates from 1838–1923 with an index (on 107 films beginning with film 1023331; computer number 178237), and a general card index for 1838–1915 (on 73 films beginning with film 1292413).

A typical probate packet includes such documents as petitions, grants of administration, inventories, letters testamentary, affidavits, statements of creditors, accounts, and guardianship decrees.

SOCIETIES

State genealogical and historical societies may have records and services to help you with your research.

For a list of helpful books with addresses of county genealogical and historical societies in Wisconsin, see the "Archives and Libraries" and "Societies" sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

Many counties also have local historical and genealogical societies. You can find local society addresses by using directories cited in the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline*

(30972). Also see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.

TAXATION

There are county tax rolls, some dating as early as the 1820s. The county treasurer may have these records, or they may have been transferred to the area research center for the region (see the list of area research centers in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline).

VITAL RECORDS

Birth and Death Records Before 1907

A few counties began keeping birth and death records in the 1850s, but most records date from the 1870s or later. These documents often give excellent genealogical information. Microfilms of the records through 1907 have been deposited at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the area research centers (listed in the "Archives and Libraries" section).

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the *Registrations of Births, ca. 1852 to 1907* (on 160 FHL films beginning with film 1306420; computer number 126945) and the *Registration of Deaths, ca. 1862–1907* (on 68 films beginning with film 1310171; computer number 236721). Most counties begin in the 1870s. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WISCONSIN - VITAL RECORDS. The birth certificates generally give both parents' names and their places of birth. Death certificates usually give birth date and place, death date and place, name of spouse, names of the person's parents, burial place, and residence. After mid-July, 1897, they also give the birth place of the person's father and mother.

There are three indexes to these records. Copies of these indexes are at the State Historical Society in Wisconsin, the area research centers, and the Family History Library. These are:

- *Unedited Index to Registrations of Births, 1852–1907,* arranged alphabetically by surname (on 38 microfiche, FHL fiche 6331478; computer number 258488). This gives the date of birth, the county, and the volume and page number of the original record.
- *Index to Registrations of Births, 1852–1907,* arranged chronologically by the date of birth (on 41 fiche, FHL fiche 6331476; computer number 258503). Use this if you know the approximate date of birth or if the name is not found in the alphabetical index mentioned above.
- *The Pre-1907 Death Index by Name,* alphabetically arranged for the entire state (on 29 fiche, FHL fiche 6331472; computer number 258489). Be sure to search for spelling variations of the surname. Also available is the *Death Records Index, 1959–1984* (FHL fiche 6334350–51; computer number 549067).

The Family History Library also has a large set of birth and death records from the Register of Deeds in Milwaukee County. In the Family History Library Catalog these are listed under WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, MILWAUKEE - VITAL RECORDS:

- Births, 1854–1911 and index, 1854–1932 (on 194 films beginning with film 1011972).
- Deaths, 1852–1912, and index, 1872–1916 (on 109 films beginning with film 1013185).

Delayed registrations of births began in 1937. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog as *Delayed Births, ca. 1937–1941; Affidavit Delayed Births, ca. 1940–1942* (on 26 FHL films beginning with film 1305612 item 2; computer number 22753). The records to 1942 are located at the Bureau for Health Statistics (see address below). Later records are at the county courthouses.

Many of the delayed registrations have been included in the *Unedited Pre-1907* birth index because the births occurred before statewide registration began.

Records of Births and Deaths Since 1907

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1907. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records, although it does have several indexes. You can obtain copies by writing to:

Vital Records
1 West Wilson St.
P. O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53701-0309
Tel. 608-266-1372

State your relationship to the individual for whom you want information and the reason you want the information.

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, MD.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March, 1993; FHL 973 V24wv; computer number 185507). This booklet can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9328. Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers.

Marriage Records

Before statewide registration, individual counties recorded marriages. You can obtain copies by writing to the register of deeds or the Bureau of Health Statistics (see address above). Some records,

particularly those from Brown, Crawford, Dodge, and Jefferson counties, begin as early as the 1820's.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many of the existing pre-1907 marriage records. Some counties have early marriage records which are not on microfilm. For example, Crawford County has marriage records that begin in 1816. The marriage records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the county. Copies are also available at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the area research centers. Beginning about 1852, the marriage records generally give the names of the parents of the bride and groom. By 1881 the form asked for the parents' places of birth.

The index to these records is the *Index to Registrations of Marriages, 1852–1907,* which list one million names that are alphabetically arranged for counties Adams through Racine. Counties Richland through Wood are not included in the index (on 77 microfiche, FHL fiche 6331479; computer number 321176). Search for variations of the surname when using the index. The State Historical Society in Wisconsin also has this index. Also available is *Indexes for Wisconsin Marriage Records, 1973–1984* (FHL fiche 6334468–9; computer number 549068).

The Family History Library has three sets of marriage records for Milwaukee County:

- Register of Deeds marriages 1838-1911 and index 1838-1918 (on 83 FHL films beginning with film 1013949). Record come from the Milwaukee County courthouse.
- Register of Deeds marriage certificates 1836-1876 (on 14 FHL films beginning with film 1032378). Records also come from the Milwaukee County courthouse.
- Marriages 1837-1907 and index 1852-1907 (on 63 FHL films beginning with film 1275674 items 2–3). Records come from the Bureau for Health Statistics (see address above).

After 1907, marriage records from all counties can be obtained from the Bureau for Health Statistics (address above) or from the register of deeds of the appropriate county.

Divorce Records

Divorce proceedings are usually kept by the county clerks and circuit judges. You should contact the county courthouse for information. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records. It does have:

Wisconsin Center for Health Statistics. *Indexes for Wisconsin Divorces, 1965–1984.* Madison, Wis.: State Microfilm Laboratory, ca. 1984. (On 36 FHL fiche beginning with 6334470; computer number 549069.)

Inventory of Vital Records

You can learn more about the history and availability of the records in *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Wisconsin* (Madison: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 977.5 V23h; film 1036237 item 3; computer number 246359).

FOR FURTHER READING

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources.* Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps, and tables showing when each county was created.

Ryan, Carol W. *Searching for Your Wisconsin Ancestors in the Wisconsin Libraries.* Green Bay: C. W. Ryan, 1988. (FHL book 977.5 D27r 1988; computer number 615878.)

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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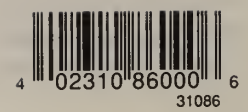
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